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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,137	12/27/2000	Hiromoto Inoue	50073-042	3305

7590 12/03/2003

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

AKKAPHEDDI, PRASAD R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office - Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
09/748,137	INOUE, HIROMOTO	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Prasad R Akkapeddi	2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/08/2003 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 09/08/2003, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-7 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Sasuga et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sasuga et al. (Sasuga) (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,626).

As to claim 1: Sasuga discloses a liquid crystal display (MDL) with two substrates (SUB 1 and SUB 2) with a liquid crystal material (LC), a lower case body (LCA), a LCD cover (SHD), a liquid crystal panel (PNL) having an opening in a display region (LCW), the LCD cover (SHD) is fitted with the case body (LCA) (col.18, lines 1-3). Sasuga discloses that the display panel is equipped on its upper and lower surfaces (surrounding the outside edge), with a thin rubber spacer (rubber cushion, not shown), having an elongated rectangular shape on its four side edges exerting no influence upon the display. The upper side rubber spacer is sandwiched between the display panel and the shield casing and the lower rubber spacer is sandwiched between the display panel and the middle frame. Fitting of the panel, the upper case and the lower case by pushing (pressing) has been disclosed in (col. 18, lines 50-68). These teachings can either be directly applicable to the recitations of the instant claims or can easily be modified to read on the instant claim.

As to claim 2: Sasuga discloses a rubber cushion and hence the material has excellent elastic coefficient and high friction factor as recited.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3-10 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

A search of the prior art did not disclose a LCD device comprising a combination of structural elements, more specifically:

(a) Pawl portions provided in the LCD cover and extending to a space between the case body and the hinge members to engage with the hinge members.

(b) Pawl portions provided in the LCD cover in portions where the hinge member is mounted and fixed to the case body together with the hinge member by bolt means.

The prior art (a) Park (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,642) discloses rotatable hinge members (300). However Park does not disclose pawl portions that engage with the hinge members (b) Sasuga (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,626) discloses pawl portions (CL) but does not disclose a rotatable hinge and the engagement of the pawl portions with the hinge.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
8. Applicant's arguments, see amendment, filed 09/08/2003, with respect to claims 3-7 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 3-7 has been withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prasad R Akkapeddi whose telephone number is 703-305-4767. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM to 5:30PM M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H Kim can be reached on 703-305-3492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0530.

RA

Prasad R Akkapeddi, Ph.D
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

(Signature)
T. Chowdhury
Primary Examiner